

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 59-74 from the application without prejudice.

1-46 (Cancelled)

47. (Currently amended) A method of removing embedding medium from a biological sample, the method comprising the steps of:

heating the biological sample containing embedding medium to a temperature at or above the embedding medium's melting point to form a liquefied embedding medium; and

applying a non-organic liquid to the biological sample to separate the liquefied embedding medium from the biological sample, wherein said non-organic liquid has a density greater than that of the liquefied embedding medium.

48. (previously added) The method of claim 47, wherein the non-organic liquid comprises water.

49. (previously added) The method of claim 47, wherein the non-organic liquid comprises a detergent.

50. (previously added) The method of claim 49, wherein the detergent comprises ionic or non-ionic surfactants.

51. (currently amended) The method of claim 50, wherein the ionic or non-ionic surfactants are selected from the group consisting of ~~Triton X-100 octylphenoxypropoxy (5) ethanol, Tweenpolyoxyethelene(20)sorbitan, Brijpolyoxyethelene(23) dodecyl ether, sodium dodecylsulfate and saponin.~~

52. (previously added) The method of claim 47 wherein the embedding medium comprises paraffin wax.

53. (previously added) A method of removing embedding medium from a biological sample, the method comprising the steps of:

applying a non-organic liquid to a biological sample; and

heating the biological sample containing embedding medium to a temperature at or above the embedding medium's melting point.

54. (previously added) The method of claim 53, wherein the non-organic liquid comprises water.

55. (previously added) The method of claim 53, wherein the non-organic liquid comprises a detergent.

56. (previously added) The method of claim 55, wherein the detergent comprises ionic or non-ionic surfactants.

57. (currently amended) The method of claim 56, wherein the ionic or non-ionic surfactants are selected from the group consisting of ~~Triton X-100octylphenoxypropoxyethoxy (5) ethanol, Tweenpolyoxyethelene(20)sorbitan, Brijpolyoxyethelene(23) dodecyl ether, sodium dodecylsulfate and saponin.~~

58. (previously added) The method of claim 53, wherein the embedding medium is ~~paraffin-wax~~.

59-74. (withdrawn)